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PATENT
KIK01 P318

IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

Applicants : Hiromi Watanabe and Isao Kuwahara

For : **STOCK MATERIAL FOR CONTAINER BODY OF INSULATING PAPER CONTAINER, INSULATING PAPER CONTAINER AND PROCESS FOR MAKING THEM**

Assistant Commissioner for Patents
Washington, DC 20231

Dear Sir:

INFORMATION DISCLOSURE STATEMENT

In accordance with 37 CFR 1.51, 1.56, 1.97 and 1.98, Applicants hereby bring to the attention of the Office the patents, publications or other information listed on attached Form PTO 1449. One copy of each listed reference is enclosed.

With respect to the non-English references, Japanese Patent Publication Gazette No. 1973-32283 describes a process of laminating low m.p. thermoplastic synthetic resin film on at least one surface of moisture containing paper destined to become stock material for a container body and heating this film so that said film may be expanded to present an irregular surface under a pressure of water vapor discharged from said moisture containing paper stock material. This publication also describes that the opposite surface of the paper is formed with a layer adapted to hold water vapor generated during the step of heating.

Japanese Patent Application Disclosure Gazette No. 1982-110439 describes a paper container body and bottom wall, and a process comprising steps of laminating low m.p. thermoplastic synthetic resin film on an outer wall surface of the container body and heat expanding the film so as to present an irregular surface under a pressure of water vapor generated from moisture contained in the base paper. This publication also describes the technique such that a similar expandable thermoplastic synthetic resin film is laminated on the opposite surface of the base paper or this opposite surface is coated with aluminum foil so as to hold a pressure of water vapor generated during heating.

Japanese Patent Application Disclosure Gazette No. 1993-42929 describes a paper container body and bottom wall, and a process comprising the steps of double laminating low m.p. thermoplastic synthetic resin film and high m.p. thermoplastic synthetic resin film on the outer wall surface of the container body and heating them so that only the low m.p. thermoplastic synthetic resin film forming the inner layer may be expanded, resulting in a two-layered insulating paper container having a smooth and glossy outer layer. This publication also describes the laminating of high m.p. thermoplastic synthetic resin film on the opposite surface of the base paper as a layer serving to hold a pressure of water vapor generated during heating.

Japanese Patent Application Disclosure Gazette No. 1995-232774 describes a paper container body and bottom wall, and a process comprising the steps of printing the base paper of the container body in a desired region on its outer wall surface with organic solvent containing ink, then laminating low m.p. thermoplastic synthetic resin film on said outer wall surface inclusive of the surface of said print, and heating this so that the printed region may be expanded more thickly than the remaining region to form the insulating paper container having locally different thickness. Description is also found in this literature that the step of printing may include a step of applying an anti-volatility layer in order to form an unexpanded region and a step of laminating high m.p. thermoplastic synthetic resin film on the opposite surface of the base paper.

Japanese Patent Application Disclosure Gazette No. 1997-95368 describes an insulating paper container body and bottom wall, and a process of laminating low m.p. thermoplastic synthetic resin film on an outer wall surface of the base paper for the container body applying desired region or regions on the upper surface of said film with synthetic resin ingredient containing coating and heating this so as to form expansion-inhibited region or regions corresponding to said region or regions on the outer surface of the container body applied with said synthetic resin ingredient containing coating.

Japanese Patent Application Disclosure Gazette No. 1997-142435 describes an insulating paper container body and bottom wall, and the process of providing the outer wall surface of the base paper for the region or regions with a printed layer, coating said printed

region or regions with a layer of transparent varnish, laminating low m.p. thermoplastic synthetic resin film on the outer surface of said layer of transparent varnish and heating this film so as to achieve uniform expansion and a satisfactory insulating property.

This submission does not represent that a search has been made or that no better art exists and does not constitute an admission that each or all of the listed documents are material or constitute "prior art." If it should be determined that any of the listed documents do not constitute "prior art" under U.S. law, Applicants reserve the right to present to the Office the relevant facts and law regarding the appropriate status of such documents.

Applicants further reserve the right to take appropriate action to establish the patentability of the disclosed invention over the listed documents should one or more of the documents be applied against the claims of the present application. It is respectfully requested that each of the references be indicated as considered during the prosecution of the subject application. An action on the merits is solicited.

Respectfully submitted,

HIROMI WATANABE ET AL.

By: Price, Heneveld, Cooper,
DeWitt & Litton

July 15, 1999
Date

H. W. Reick
Registration No. 25 438
695 Kenmoor S.E.
P.O. Box 2567
Grand Rapids, MI 49501
(616) 949-9610

HWR:dal